

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 IO-10 AGR-05 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 INT-05 COME-00 /086 W

----- 083483

R 171903Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1722

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AG

SUBJ: SIGNS OF DROUGHT IN ALGERIA - WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

PASS DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

1. ALGERIAN PRESS, CITING AGRICULTURAL AND METEOROLOGICAL EXPERTS, BECOMING MORE AND MORE ALARMED ABOUT LACK OF RAIN, DUE TO STAGNANT ATLANTIC HIGH OVER SPAIN. ARTICLES POINT OUT DROUGHT IS EFFECTING SOUGHERN PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY, ALGERIA, AND MOROCCO. AGRICULTURAL CROPS ESPECIALLY CEREALS ARE BEING SEVERELY DAMAGED.

2. SOUTH CENTRAL AND WESTERN ALGERIA AFTER STARTING GROWING SEASON WITH MORE RAIN THAN USUAL IN OCTOBER HAD A DRY NOVEMBER, 15.6 MM RATHER THAN 68 MM AVERAGE. THEN IN DECEMBER THERE WAS PRACTICALLY NO RAIN AND IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JANUARY 1975 THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN A FEW VERY LIGHT RAINS. IF THERE IS

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GOOD RAINFALL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR TWO WEEKS POOR

BUT PASSABLE CROPS CAN BE EXPECTED IN ALGERIA. IF
THE RAIN DOES NOT FALL SOON, MUCH OF ALGERIA'S
BEST CEREAL CROP LANDS WILL SUFFER SERIOUS AGRICULTURAL
SHORTFALLS. THESE SHORTFALLS CAN BE EXPECTED TO
TRANSLATE INTO LARGE ORDERS FOR CEAREALS AND OTHER
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

3. EMBASSY ALGIERS WILL TRY TO MONITOR THIS WORSENING
SITUATION; BUT WOULD APPRECIATE MORE EXPERT OPINIONS
FROM AGATT RABAT. SUGGEST THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE
TIME FOR LATTER TO VISIT ALGIERS. SUCH VISIT WOULD
PROVIDE GOOD OCCASION FOR REQUESTING HIS ACCREDITATIONS
HERE. POST WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE FROM USDA FIGURES FOR
ALGERIAN WHEAT IMPORTS FROM US IN 1974 AND FOR OUTSTANDING
BUT NOT SHIPPED ORDERS.PARKER

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